

**SECRET**

SR 20

4 June 1948

SUGGESTIONS OF ESTIMATES GROUP

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF GERMANY AND  
PROBABLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

No comment submitted as it is understood that <sup>25X1A</sup> [REDACTED] discussed these sections with <sup>25X1A</sup> [REDACTED] on 2 June.

MILITARY SITUATION

This section needs tightening up and reorganizing for the sake of clarity, e.g.:

Page 23 - "Seizure of the Ruhr, of course, would put Germany's most valuable resources at the disposal of an occupying power, which could then exploit them at will with whatever indigenous forced labor was necessary."

The Ruhr already is in the hands of an occupying power. Fail to see point being made unless we mean that the USSR, as an occupying power would exploit Ruhr. If we mean this, we should not say an occupying power. There is also the question: does the statement contribute essential information regarding the current situation in Germany?

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